GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:500
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
DELAY IN SUPPLY OF MEDICINES
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the medicines prescribed by specialists of Government hospitals are not supplied timely to the C.G.H.S. beneficiaries;

(b) if so, whether there is any provision whereby the CGHS beneficiaries can buy medicines from the market without prior permission of CGHS and get the reimbursement for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the lacunae from the existing system and to streamline the working of CGHS for the sake of beneficiaries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) Adequate quantity of medicines are supplied to the beneficiaries on the same day. However, the medicines not available in the dispensary are procured though authorized local chemists on individual prescription basis. By and large the medicines are supplied on the next working day by the authorized local chemist or at best on the third day. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorized local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioners) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

(b)&(c) There is no such provision of allowing the beneficiaries to procure the medicines directly from the market without prior permission of CGHS.

(d): The Govt. has already approved the Combined formulary for the MSO/CGHS in respect of 504 proprietary drugs. Action to procure medicines for the CGHS as per the formulary has been initiated. As a result, availability of drugs in CGHS dispensaries is expected to improve further.

There is an inbuilt mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervision and guidance by Senior Officers of CGHS.

Eight special inspection teams have also been constituted in Delhi to monitor the complete functioning of CGHS Dispensaries. Surprise visits are made by these teams from time to time and remedial action taken as and when required.

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